

Council Connection

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

empowerment • opportunity • inclusion

May 2014

In This Issue

Check this Out!
Did You Know?
More Support for Adult Sibs
Young Sibling Survey
Summer Fun for Everyone
Wanted! Public Input

Check this out!



What is it like to have a brother with autism?

The best 3 minutes you'll spend today. Video by 20 year old Spencer about his brother Mitchel, who has autism. [Youtube video](#)

Did You Know?

MD Ranks 27th

MD ranked 27th out of 50 states & Washington D.C. in United Cerebral Palsy's *Case for Inclusion* study, a ranking of how well Medicaid serves Americans with developmental disabilities. (1=Best & 51=Worst)
[Case for Inclusion](#)

Summer Reading?
There's an App for that!

More Support for Adult Sibs

We are moving forward quickly to develop ways to support adults in Maryland who have siblings with disabilities. The DD Council, The Arc Maryland and By Their Side have been working collaboratively with a steering committee of adult sibs to identify and act on various ideas that will provide peer support, needed information, networking and casual social "meet-ups."

Watch for these developments over the next few months:

Facebook:

The Maryland Sibling Support Network facebook page will launch - it will be for all adult siblings and have separate group pages dedicated to adult sibs and young adult sibs because their interests and needs are different.

Forum:

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 14 at 10:00 a.m.** We will co-host another adult sibling forum. The focus will be on transitioning - taking on more responsibility and advocacy for your sib. The forum will include a panel, Q & A and networking and be followed by an optional meet-up over lunch for adult sibs.



Location and more details will be disseminated soon.

Young Sibling Survey is still Open

Survey deadline ~ May 16th

The Council wants to learn about the experiences of young siblings of people with developmental disabilities so it can develop ways to support siblings that are based on their needs and experiences. Please support sibs 5-14 to complete the survey.

[Sibling Survey](#)



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MD Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP) offers demonstrations of Apps, including ebooks, Read@Go and more! For a full list of Apps, [AT Apps](#)

FREE REC FEST in Baltimore



Fun Activities for All Ages & Abilities
Oct 4th 11a.m-4p.m. Registration is REQUIRED. More info, [RecFest.net](#)

Contact Us

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SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE~



The following list of resources reflect inclusive summer camp opportunities in Maryland for children and teens with and without disabilities.

Camp Accomplish

Camp Accomplish is a fully inclusive program for youth and teens aged 5-18. Campers enjoy a variety of different activities including swimming, climbing wall and ropes courses and much more. Camp Accomplish offers options for day and overnight camp in addition to a two-week teen program.

[More information](#)

Greenwell Foundation

Camp Greenwell is an outdoor inclusive day camp for all children aged 4-14. Located in Greenwell State Park, the camps offers a waterfront environment for hiking, kayaking, and exploration.

[More information](#)

Camp JCC

JCC allows campers to grow, explore their strengths, and build Jewish identity. Camp themes include sports, day trips, theater arts and more. Plus, convenient transportation options, extended day programs and pre- and post-camp sessions are designed to meet your summer needs. [More information](#)

If you know of other inclusive camps that include children with and without disabilities, please email their information to the Council at info@md-council.org.

Commission on Effective Community Inclusion of People with Developmental Disabilities



This commission has been developing training objectives regarding working effectively with people with disabilities that it hopes will be adopted by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions by the end of the year and included in training for all law enforcement in the 2015 training cycle.

The Commission submitted written testimony in April to a Congressional subcommittee focused on this issue. Read the [Commission's testimony](#).

Community Inclusion is a central focus of the Commission. It has broadened its work to look at ways to collaborate in other areas to realize true inclusion and effective services in sectors such as courts, hospitals, transportation, schools and businesses. Next steps are for Commission representatives to meet with representatives of these sectors in Maryland to discuss opportunities to collaborate.

Information on the [Commission and meeting dates](#).

Wanted! Public Input on a proposed new goal for the Council's State Plan

Vote and provide comments by July 11th

The Council is recommending a change to its Five Year State Plan. The proposed change, called an amendment, will add the following new goal:

Goal:

Information, networking opportunities, and peer support are available to siblings of people with developmental disabilities

Objective:

Develop and implement strategies that inform and support siblings of people with developmental disabilities

[Vote and comment](#)

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